II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said adjusting step further includes a step of maintaining the angle which is changed in said changing step.

Claims 7-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said adjusting step further includes a step of maintaining the angle which is changed in said changing step.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjusting step includes a step of forming conical portions at both end portions of the base material, each of the conical portions having a rotational, axis being coincide with a center of a perfect circle on a core.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said adjusting step further includes a step of forming an orientation flat on at least one of conical portions.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

etching the base material wherein a direction of a maximum diameter of the base material with respect to a section perpendicular to the axis of the base material is perpendicular to a etchant surface.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a base material for an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:

holding a bar material, which the base material is deposited, by a support member constituted as one unit;

making a swing suppressing mechanism contact with the support member in a perpendicular direction to the axis of the support member; and

rotating the bar material as a unit with the support member**[; and]**

wherein the swing suppression mechanism regulates ~~regulating~~ a movement of the unit of the bar material and the support member, the movement being perpendicular to a direction of a rotation axis of the unit of the bar material and the support member.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said regulating step includes a step of blowing a gas to the support member.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said regulating step includes a step of blowing a gas to the bar material.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a step of.

forming conical portions at both end portions of the base material, each of the conical portions having a rotational axis being coincide with a center of a perfect circle on a core.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a step of:

forming an orientation flat on at least one of conical portions.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising steps of:

maintaining ~~a position of~~ the bar material at a particular point distant from ~~for a predetermined period from reaching~~ a sintering area until a predetermined time period is passed after the temperature of the sintering area reaches ~~up to~~ a sintering temperature; and

starting a sintering process ~~after said maintaining step~~ in the sintering area.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a step of:

etching the base material wherein a direction of a maximum diameter of the base material with respect to a section perpendicular to the axis of the base material is perpendicular to a etchant surface.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) A base material manufactured by the method as claimed in either one of claims 1 to 24.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) An optical fiber base material grasping apparatus for holding a bar material having an axis, comprising:

a support member having a center axis, said support member being rotatable around said center axis; and

an adjusting mechanism for reducing a difference between the axis of the bar material and said central axis of said support member.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 26, said adjusting mechanism includes an inclination mechanism wherein said inclination mechanism is able to make the axis of the bar material incline with respect to said central axis of said support member.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 26, said adjusting mechanism includes a moving mechanism wherein said moving mechanism is able to make the axis of the bar material move in a direction perpendicular to said central axis of said support member.

Claim 29.(Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 28, further comprising:

a distance meter for measuring a distance from a reference point to the bar material.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said distance meter includes a laser displacement meter.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 29, further comprising plural distance meters.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said moving mechanism includes an X-Y stage, said X-Y stage comprising:

a body;

an X-direction ring holding the bar material;

a Y-direction ring holding said X-direction ring;

an X-direction screw rod being screwed into both of said X-direction ring and said Y-direction ring;

an X-direction guide rod having both ends wherein said X-direction guide rod penetrates through said X-direction ring and said both ends of said X-direction guide rod are supported at said Y-direction ring;

a Y-direction screw rod being screwed into both of said body and said Y-direction ring; and

a Y-direction guide rod having both ends wherein said Y-direction guide rod penetrates through said Y-direction ring and said both ends of said Y-direction guide rod are supported at said body.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inclination mechanism includes an adjustable joint, said adjustable joint comprising:

an upper clamp having a forked end, said upper clamp being connecting to said support member;

a ball being pinched between said forked end of said upper clamp;

a lower clamp having a forked end wherein said forked end of said lower clamp diagonally faces to said forked end of said lower clamp and said lower clamp connects to the bar material; and

a fastener tightening said upper clamp and said lower clamp.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inclination mechanism includes:

a connecting member with which the bar material is connected to said support member;

a rotary shaft around which said connecting member is freely rotatable, said rotary shaft of said inclination mechanism being perpendicular to said center axis.

Claim 35. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said inclination mechanism includes at least two rotary shafts around which said connecting member is freely rotatable.

Claim 36. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein an angle between each pair of said at least two rotary shafts at least one position is defined by:

360* (2*n),

where n represents the number of said rotary shafts.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus acclaimed in claim 34, wherein at least two of said at least two rotary shafts axe positioned on a plane being perpendicular to said central axis of said support member.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein an angle between each pair of said at least two rotary shafts at least one position is defined by:

360* (2*n),

where n represents the number of said rotary shafts.

Claim 39. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus acclaimed in claim 35, wherein at least two of said at least two rotary shafts are positioned on a plane being perpendicular to said central axis of said support member, at least one of said at least two rotary shafts is positioned on another plane being perpendicular to said central axis of said support member, an angle between each pair of said at least two rotary shafts at least one position is defined by:

360* (2*n),

where n represents the number of said rotary shafts.

Claim 40. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatuses claimed in claim 26, wherein said adjusting mechanism includes:

a locking portion at the bar material, said locking portion expanding along a direction of the axis of the bar material;

a contact portion making a contact with said locking portion wherein said contact portion presses said locking portion toward said support member in a direction almost perpendicular to the axis direction of the bar material due to own weight of the bar material.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said support member includes a tube portion having an inner surface, said tube portion into which one end of the bar material is inserted with a certain margin, and wherein said contact portion of said adjusting mechanism includes a pin put between said inner surface of said tube portion and said locking portion through said tube portion.

Claim 42. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus acclaimed in claim 41, wherein said pin has a flat area making contact with said locking portion.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein said locking portion has a slope in which an angle formed between said slope and a side surface of the axis direction of the base material is from 10 to 50 degree.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) An optical fiber base material grasping apparatus for holding a bar material having an axis, comprising:

a support member holding the bar material, said support member having an axis around which said support member is rotatable; and

a swing suppressing mechanism wherein said swing suppressing mechanism regulates a movement being perpendicular to said axis of said support member during rotating the bar material along with said support member.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said swing suppressing mechanism includes a contact portion making contact with said support member during rotating said support member to suppress a swing at an opposite end to an end held by said support member.

Claim 46. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatuses claimed in claim 45, wherein said contact portion includes:

a swing suppressing plate having a hole being slightly larger than a diameter of said support member; and

a filler made of resin filled into said hole after said support member is inserted into said hole of said swing suppressing plate.

Claim 47. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein said contact portion includes:

a pair of guide rollers making a contact with said support member; and

a roller holder holding said guide rollers.

Claim 48. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said swing suppressing mechanism includes a gas jet portion blowing a gas to said support member.

Claim 49. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber base material grasping apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said swing suppressing mechanism includes a gas jet portion blowing a gas to the bar material

Claim 50. (New) The method for manufacturing a base material as claimed in claim 17, wherein the holding member includes a plurality of rollers being freely rotatable at the axis of each roller in a perpendicular direction with the axis of the support member.

Claim 51. (New) The method for manufacturing a base material as claimed in claim 50, wherein each roller has a concave surface for contacting with a surface of the supporting member.